



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

Jill Remington Love
Executive Director
Department of
Heritage & Arts



Don Hartley
Director

State Historic Preservation Officer

April 23, 2019

House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Raul Grijalva and Ranking Member Rob Bishop:

I am writing on behalf of the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area (MPNHA) to express our strong support for the National Heritage Area program. As a state agency that promotes the cultural and economic benefits of history throughout Utah, we have witnessed first-hand the tremendous benefits the MPNHA has provided to the communities in the rural six-county heritage area. The MPNHA plays a critical role as a regional resource for the communities, businesses, and property owners who are on the front lines in the effort to provide heritage tourism and community preservation services. Their matching grants and technical assistance provide a critical service in helping projects succeed.

The MPNHA has been especially effective in coordinating efforts in Sanpete County. No other county in Utah can match Sanpete County's accomplishments over the past 25 years. Individual communities in the county have been pursuing their own preservation and heritage tourism agendas since the 1970s, and many of them became "partners in preservation" with the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service, but the creation of the Sanpete Heritage Council in the mid-1990s brought communities throughout the county together to develop broader goals and coordinate projects to maximize their effectiveness. This Council evolved into the Utah Heritage Highway 89 Alliance, which is now the coordinating body for the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area. The MPNHA is a model of what a National Heritage Area should be.

Scores of historic sites and businesses in the heritage area have benefitted from the promotional efforts and direct assistance of the MPNHA over the years. A vibrant National Heritage Area program is a key component to helping the rural communities in this area retain their cultural identity and leverage it for economic development.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Roger Roper
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
rroper@utah.gov (801) 245-7251